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Facility: Van Waters and Rogers, Portland

ID No: ORD 00922 7398 **Date of Inspection:** September 10, 1990
Date of Report: January 11, 1991

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Purpose:

This inspection was conducted to gather information on the facility's compliance with applicable regulations for management of hazardous wastes under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (RCRA).

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is authorized to regulate the management of hazardous waste in Oregon in lieu of the federal government except for certain provisions contained in the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984. This inspection was conducted by EPA with the agreement of DEQ.

Background Information:

Van Waters and Rogers (VWR) operates a chemical distribution plant in Portland, OR. The facility has operated as a hazardous waste generator, transporter, recycler and storage facility. The facility did not treat, store or dispose hazardous waste in land disposal units.

VWR submitted a closure plan for the drum storage pad. The plan was approved on July 1, 1988. The facility has completed its closure activities, and is working with DEQ to certify closure and withdraw from interim status. Facility representatives stated that no hazardous wastes are stored on site and that VWR is operating as a hazardous waste generator. This inspection therefore focused on requirements for generators. However, since closure of the facility has not been completed, it still must comply with interim status requirements.

In addition to ongoing chemical distribution and hazardous waste generation activities, VWR is undergoing a RCRA Facility Investigation pursuant to a 3008(h) Consent Order issued by EPA on June 15, 1988. The purpose of the RFI is to determine the sources, locations and rates of movement of several plumes of groundwater contamination. The contaminants appear to have come from chemical spills at the facility.

Introduction:

The inspection began at approximately 12:45 p.m. on September 10, 1990. The inspectors met with George Sylvester of VWR, Environmental Affairs, signed in and showed credentials.

We went to a conference room and were joined by the following VWR personnel: Stan West, Field Support Manager and Jerry Jones, Assistant Operations Manager/Warehouse Manager.

Bruce Long explained the purpose of the inspection.

We were joined by Kirk Steinseifer, Area Operations Manager for VWR.

We discussed waste types handled at VWR. Kirk Steinseifer said that no hazardous wastes are generated from the facility's processes. He said that VWR receives leftover materials in drums returned by customers. He said corrosives are neutralized, solvents are combined and sold as lacquer thinner. He said that if the materials are not usable, they are drummed as hazardous waste.

First Record Review:

Manifests

We asked for the facility's manifest files for 1989 and 1990. Jerry Jones brought the files to us and we quickly reviewed all of the manifests in the files. Land ban notices were not found with copies of the manifests. Jerry Jones said VWR completes and sends the notices to the facility and does not retain copies. He said he can get copies of the notices from Chempro.

We noted one manifest, number 89001, describing a shipment of drums containing U wastes to USPCI in Utah. George Sylvester stated that the drums contained soil from drilling conducted as part of the RCRA Facility Investigation. He said that as far as he knows the drums were buried.

We asked the facility to provide copies of manifests and Land Disposal Restriction Notices with the following Manifest Document Numbers: 89001, 89002, 90005, 90004, 13190, 20290.

Contingency Plan

We asked to see a copy of the contingency plan. Kirk Steinseifer provided a copy of the plan and showed us copies of letters dated April 17, 1990 transmitting contingency plans to ODEQ, the Sheriff, the Fire Department, the Industrial Clinic, and the Portland Police.

Kirk Steinseifer said that a new contingency plan had just been prepared but had not yet been distributed. He said that the copy he gave me will remain in effect until the updated plan is distributed. Following the inspection, I received a copy of the updated contingency plan by letter dated September 28, 1990.

Field Inspection:

In addition to conducting the hazardous waste inspection, Rene Fuentes and I observed the ground water monitoring wells at the facility, and discussed the progress of the RCRA Facility Investigation with George Sylvester and Stan West. Details of that portion of the site visit are not included in this report.

I also observed the Convoy property which borders the southeastern portion of VWR. I saw a rectangular area of dirt on the Convoy property. George Sylvester told me Convoy is landfarming contaminated soil. Two sprinklers were wetting down the soil. Water was running off the soil and draining along the asphalt, under the chain link fence and onto VWR property and into a drain next to the fence on the VWR side (see photographs 8 and 9, Appendix 7). George Sylvester told me the drain is a storm drain.

Laboratory

In the laboratory we observed several closed containers of materials including flammable waste, chlorinated compounds and freon. I was told that the flammable wastes are sold by the facility as lacquer thinner, chlorinated compounds are sold as Vanscope, which is used for cleaning, and freon is sold as Vanfluoron. I saw a fire extinguisher in the laboratory with a tag showing it was inspected on 9/7/90.

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Yard

In the yard west of the loading dock I observed seven drums. Facility representatives told me the drums contained storm sewer interceptor cleanout, and were awaiting analysis. We advised George Sylvester to conduct a TCLP analysis on the contents.

Loading dock

On the loading dock I observed eight drums used by the facility to contain hazardous waste. Photographs numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 (see Appendix 7) show the containers on the loading dock. The loading dock is cement, and is covered.

Facility representatives stated that the loading dock is used as a satellite accumulation area.

I observed one green drum labelled SMW-12. A log sheet was taped to the drum (see photographs 2 and 3, Appendix 7). According to facility representatives, the log sheet shows each date waste is added to a drum. The initial date on the log was 5/24/90.

I observed three brown drums labelled as decontamination material. There were not dates on the hazardous waste label; however the log sheets on each drum had the date 2/26/89. George Sylvester stated that the drums are used in decontamination lines. He said the drums are moved to a well, waste is deposited into the drum, and then the drums are returned to the loading dock. George Sylvester stated that these drums are used as satellite accumulation drums.

I observed four drums labelled with the following hazardous waste codes: a) D001, b) U122, c) D001, d)F002, F005. There were no dates on the hazardous waste labels.

Kirk Steinseifer stated that these four drums contained material brought in by customers. He explained that VWR sends products out in drums and charges a deposit on each drum. Customers return the empty drums. VWR pours the remaining contents into a bucket. If the contents are good, they are added to lacquer thinner, which is sold. If not, the contents are added to the drums on the loading dock. Kirk Steinseifer stated that when the drums on the loading dock are full they are taken to the hazardous waste storage area. He stated that the wastes are actually generated at the loading dock.

All of the drums were closed, had hazardous waste labels and were marked with EPA hazardous waste codes. A fire extinguisher was located inside the warehouse next to a door adjacent to the

drums. The inspection tag on the fire extinguisher was dated 9/7/90.

Corrosives Treatment Vats

We moved south from the loading dock. Kirk Steinseifer told me that when customers send drums that used to contain acids or bases, the remaining contents of the drums are poured into a 1200 gallon fiberglass vat. The facility adjusts pH and the contents are moved via a valve to a second 1200 gallon vat. Kirk Steinseifer said that once the contents cool they are sampled and discharged to the sewer.

Looking back at the loading dock, I observed a drain in the loading dock under drums that the facility representatives said were empty. Stan West told me that the drain leads to the sanitary sewer.

Hazardous Waste Accumulation Area

The hazardous waste accumulation area (photographs 5 and 6, Appendix 7) is concrete and is not covered. The area is not fenced and has no secondary containment. There was no hazardous waste in storage in this area during our inspection. The area is immediately adjacent to a door into the warehouse.

The closest communication device is at the Receiving Office around the corner of the warehouse.

I was told that Rick Matchett and Bill Kelly empty incoming drums into the satellite drums on the loading dock, and transport drums from the loading dock to the hazardous waste accumulation area. I was told that Dick Tarr and Jerry Jones inspect the hazardous waste accumulation area.

I observed two large containers labeled "response kits". I was told they contained spill response equipment. One was located outside, south of the hazardous waste accumulation area, and the other was located inside the warehouse, on the northeastern wall. The approximate locations of the kits are labeled on the map attached to this report.

The closest fire extinguisher to the hazardous waste accumulation area that I saw was inside the fill shed, next to a door (see map). The inspection tag on the fire extinguisher was dated 9/7/90. There was another fire extinguisher with the same date on the inspection tag inside the cotton shed in the northeast corner.

Still and Hazardous Waste Storage Area

A building containing a still and a concrete pad are located on the western edge of the facility (see map). The still had been used to recycle hazardous waste. The concrete pad had been used for storage of hazardous waste. George Sylvester said the still is being kept in place until closure is completed. Bruce Long and Rene Fuentes said the still may be removed before completing closure. There were no hazardous waste containers on the pad during this inspection.

I was told that four tanks (two on either side of the building with the still in it) had been removed. I was told the tanks had contained perchloroethylene, TCA, TCE, and methylene chloride. I noticed several minor cracks in the concrete pad.

The fire extinguisher in the still area did not clearly show the last inspection date.

Second Record Review:

We returned to the conference room and asked for copies of training records for Bill Kelly and Rick Matchett. We received a copy of a record of Contingency Plan training held in December, 1989. Bill Kelly and Rick Matchett were listed on the attendance sheet. We received copies of certificates of HAZWOPER training for Dick Tarr, Rick Matchett and Jerry Jones. Kirk Steinseifer did not provide a certificate of HAZWOPER training for Bill Kelly.

Facility representatives said the contingency plan was activated in June, 1990. We asked for and received a copy of the spill report.

We received copies of each manifest we had requested, as well as Manifest number 89003; and we received faxed copies of Land Disposal Restriction Notices for Manifest Document Numbers 90004 and 89003. Jerry Jones said he asked Chempro to fax copies of the Land Disposal Restriction Notices to him.

Manifest Document Number 90005 describes a shipment including F001, F002 and F005 waste. No Land Disposal Restriction Notice was provided for this manifest.

Kirk Steinseifer requested a copy of the written inspection report. I told him we do not release inspection reports until all enforcement follow-up is resolved.

The inspection was completed at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Issues
Appendix 2 Map of the facility

Appendix 3	Manifests received during the inspection
Appendix 4	Training records received during the inspection
Appendix 5	Spill report received during the inspection
Appendix 6	Checklist
Appendix 7	Photographs

APPENDIX 1

Issues

Potential issues observed during this inspection were:

1. Three instances of inappropriate use of the satellite accumulation rule (40 C.F.R. § 262.34(c):

   a) Wastes generated at the ground water monitoring wells are stored in the satellite accumulation area for longer than 90 days. This is not at the point of generation and not under control of the operator of the process generating the waste. Since there is no appropriate place to store hazardous waste next to each monitoring well, the wastes generated at the wells should be placed in the generator accumulation area.

   b) A total of four 55-gallon drums of waste generated from containers returned by VWR's customers were present; two of the drums were labeled with the same waste code (D001). The satellite accumulation rule only allows accumulation of up to 55 gallons of hazardous waste in a satellite accumulation area. In order to use the loading dock as a satellite accumulation area, the facility should assure that no more than 55 gallons of waste are accumulated on the dock under 262.34(c).

   c) Because hazardous waste accumulated at the loading dock is generated intermittently, it is not under constant surveillance by the people collecting hazardous waste in drums. The satellite accumulation rule requires that the area be under control of the operator of the process generating the waste. In addition, the March 1990 Region 10 satellite accumulation policy memo states that drums should be within sight of the operator of the process or locked. Ideally, the facility should use bung locks or some other means to prevent people from accessing the drums in the absence of the operator of the process generating the waste.

2. Although it appeared that the Land Disposal Restriction Notices were sent to the TSD facility as necessary, the facility does not maintain copies of Land Disposal Restriction Notices, as required in 40 C.F.R § 268.7(a)(6).

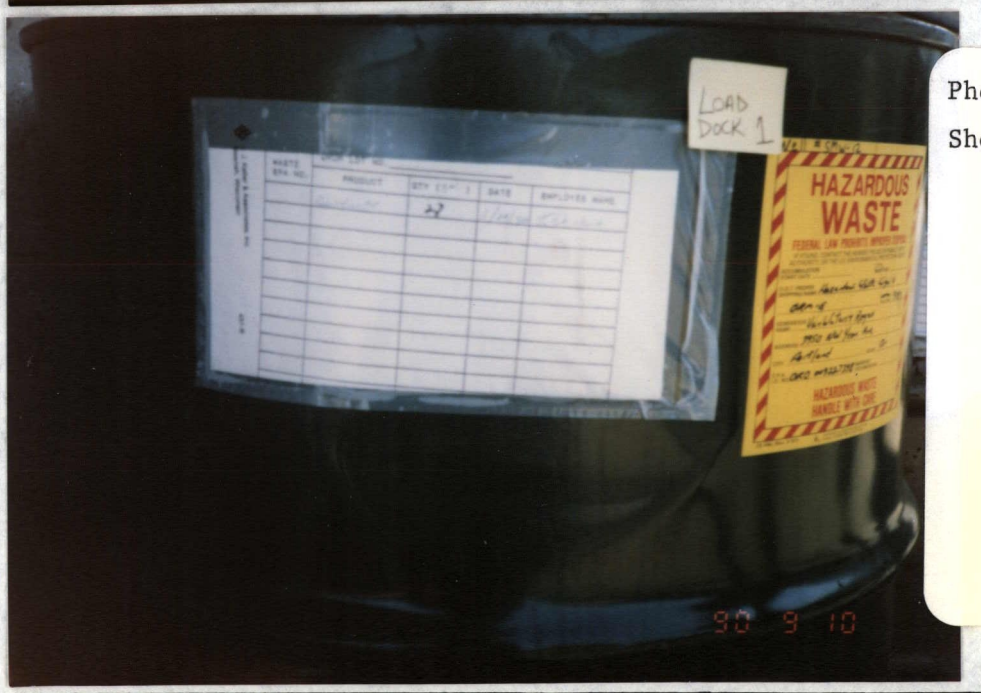
3. The facility provided most training records we requested; however it did not have a copy of HAZWOPER certification for one of the personnel designated for hazardous waste management. 40 C.F.R. § 265.16(d)(4) requires facilities to retain copies of documentation that employees completed the required training.

Photograph #1:

West side loading dock; generator accumulation area. Eight (55-gallon) containers of hazardous waste stored. Four containers of solids from on-site corrective action clean-up work. Four containers of liquids from customer containers returned for refill. Van Water & Rogers reps claim area to be satellite accumulation storage.

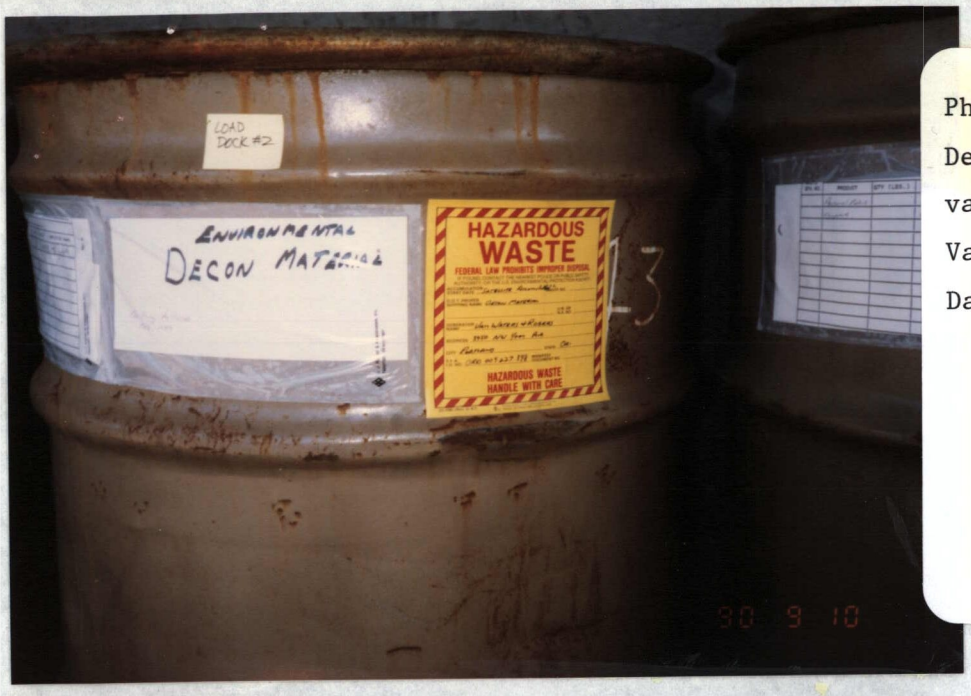
Photograph #2:

Note: Green drum in foreground (in photograph #1) marked with the date accumulation began 5/24/90. This was contaminated groundwater removed from SMW-2.



Photograph #3:

Shows accumulation date of 5/24/90.



Photograph #4:
Decon material generated at various locations around the Van Water & Rogers' property. Date accumulation began 2/26/80.

Photograph #5:
Sign marking "90 Day" generator storage area.

Photograph #6:
Observation of "90 day" generator storage area. On 9/10/90, date of inspection, no waste was found to be placed in storage.

Photograph #7:
Observation of TSD storage pad located west of building and north of still. (Still is no longer operational.)

Photograph #8:
Observation of soil venting operation on property east of Van Water & Rogers. Water run-off drains on to Van Water and Rogers' property. Soils contaminated with solvents and petroleum fuel products.

Photograph #9:
Observation of storm drain on Van Water & Rogers' property collecting run-off from off-site (see photograph #8).